

Craig R. Fry

State Representative • District 5

1999 Session of the Indiana General Assembly

Education and children remain a priority

ISTEP Gateway Examination -- House Enrolled Act 1050 allows students who do not pass the ISTEP Gateway Examination to graduate, provided they meet certain other requirements. The legislation also provides that the case conference committee determines eligibility for graduation of certain students with disabilities. The act also provides that all students in Grade 10 must take the examination.

Educational Standards -- A roundtable has been created to develop educational standards for Indiana students. Standards would be set for each grade level, easily comparable to national and international standards, written in an easy-to-understand manner, and distributed to students and parents.

Postsecondary Proprietary Education Grants -- Combines the higher education award program for students at postsecondary proprietary educational institutions with the award program for students at other institutions of higher learning.

Autistic Children --The State Department of Health will extend additional care, services and materials to autistic children less than 21 years of age. This will ensure that autistic children will receive the same assistance as children with special health care needs.



Rep. Fry debates legislation on the House floor.

Annexation law protects residents

Senate Bill 167 will give residents the right to argue in court that they do not need to be annexed because they already have adequate police and fire protection and road maintenance. In addition, citizens can argue that they will suffer significant financial impact from the annexation.

It also requires the municipality to demonstrate that the annexation is in the best interest of the people in the affected area.

Senate Bill 167 will change existing state laws covering remonstrance petitions against annexation. Residents will have 90 days to file a remonstrance, and the petition must contain the signatures of 65 percent of the affected property owners in order to proceed. Present law requires 75 percent of the owners to sign.

Build Indiana Projects

Mishawaka Sidewalks, Curbs, Sewers, and Intersection Improvements -- \$170,000

St. Joseph County Penn Township North VFD Safety Equipment -- \$15,000

St. Joseph County Penn Township South VFD Safety Equipment -- \$15,000

Osceola Dry Well Installations -- \$75,000

Osceola Road Repairs -- \$15,000

Osceola VFD Safety Equipment -- \$15,000

Elkhart- Ullery Homeownership District Infrastructure -- \$100,000

Family Services of Elkhart County Women's Shelter -- \$50,000

Elkhart Chapter of the Indiana Black Expo -- \$30,000

Elkhart County Baugo Township VFD Safety Equipment -- \$15,000

Grievance procedure established for HMOs

House Enrolled Act 1309 establishes an external procedure for grievances against HMOs. The act would require the Indiana Department of Insurance to hear grievances filed by individuals who have been denied services by an HMO.

The review would allow a physician who specializes in the treatment in question rather than a general practitioner or other physician to determine whether the patient should receive the requested services. Furthermore, the bill has provisions to ensure the review is done in a timely fashion. In life-threatening cases, the review will take place within five days.

This act provides a less costly and less time-consuming procedure for HMO grievance review. The independent reviews would be paid for by HMOs except for a \$25 filing fee paid for by the consumer.

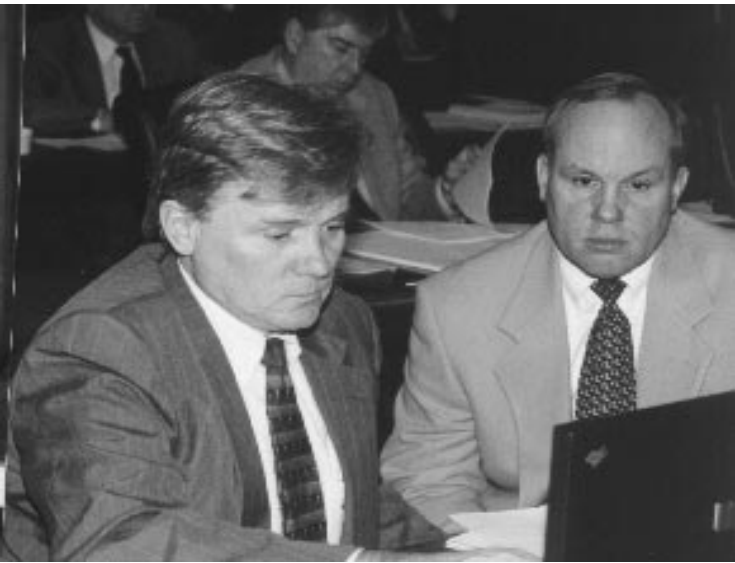
Tobacco -- Legislation has been enacted which will help prevent teenage access to tobacco products, while expanding responsibilities for retailers and clerks.

Retailers who sell products to minors will be penalized, all billboard advertising of tobacco will be banned, vending machines will be removed from areas accessible to young people, and children and teenagers will be prohibited from entering tobacco specialty stores. In addition, fines will go into a fund to pay for programs to educate young people on the hazards of tobacco.

Youth Employment -- We hope to strike a balance between the desire of teenagers to pursue a job and make money with the need for them to maintain excellence in the classroom and make themselves more attractive to future employers. Employers must now have parental consent in order to allow 16- and 17-year olds to work more than 30 hours a week during the school year. Seventeen-year-olds will not be allowed to work later than 10 p.m. on school nights without receiving written permission from their parents.

Mental Health Insurance Parity -- Legislation was enacted which ensures that any health coverage plan offering mental illness benefits must have similar treatment limitations and financial requirements as other medical conditions.

Office of Women's Health -- The Office of Women's Health will be established within the Indiana Department of Health. The office will be responsible for educating Indiana women about a variety of health issues, with particular emphasis on health issues concerning menopausal and post-menopausal women.



Rep. Fry discusses legislation with Rep. Michael Dvorak (D-South Bend).

How to Contact Representative
Craig R. Fry

RESIDENCE
637 Bay View Dr.
Mishawaka, IN 46544
e-mail: R5@ai.org

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9842



Rep. Craig R. Fry
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

Call the Statehouse Toll-Free
1-800-382-9842

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House publications available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Is the address label on this mailing correct?

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

State Phone Numbers

State Information	1-800-457-8283
Indiana House	1-800-382-9842
Indiana Senate.	1-800-382-9467
Governor's Office.	317-232-4567
Secretary of State	317-232-6531
Motor Vehicles.	317-233-6000
Natural Resources.	1-800-622-4931
Utility Regulatory.	1-800-851-4268
State Tourism	1-800-289-6646
Department of Correction. .	1-800-680-5889
Department of Education . .	317-232-6611
Department of Health	317-233-1325
Family & Social Services . .	317-233-4454

Rep. Fry votes to protect consumers, children

Child neglect -- Penalties for child neglect have been increased. The penalty for a person found guilty of neglect that results in bodily injury, or involves cruel or unusual confinement or abandonment of a child will be increased from a Class D to Class C felony. In addition, when a person is found guilty of extreme neglect (a Class B felony), courts will not have to follow guidelines to make a reasonable effort to unite the child with his or her family.

Telephone solicitation -- House Enrolled Act 1434 imposes stricter regulations on professional solicitors and fundraisers while protecting telephone customers.

The act requires a professional solicitor to disclose several items to the attorney general, including the portion of a contribution that goes to the solicitor and the portion that actually goes to the charity.

It also requires professional solicitors to disclose many of those items at the beginning of each call, including the name of the company and the

phone number and address of the location from which the call is being made.

Emergency vehicles -- Any driver approaching any stationary emergency vehicle with flashing lights needs to change lanes if possible or reduce speed. Violation of the act would be a Class A infraction, and the driver's license can be suspended for any driver who fails to observe the provisions of this law and causes damage, injury or death.

Child custody -- Courts may now give equal consideration to long-term guardians such as grandparents or relatives other than parents when awarding custody of a child if it is in the best interest of the child. Previously, courts placed priority on placing a child with his or her parents.

Church arsons -- The crime of arson is now a Class B felony if it involves any structure used for religious worship. The legislation also makes it a Class B felony burglary to break into and enter a structure used for religious worship with the intent of committing a felony.